



Interagency Council on Homelessness | Youth Committee

Meeting Notes | September 24, 2020

YHDP and YAB Updates

- D’Vontay (TCP Fellow) & Stephen (DHS Fellow) are in the process of developing an on-going youth sub-committee work group to empower youth leaders in CoC provider programs to infuse youth voice on a system level. This sub-committee will uplift the voices of youth who are not on the Youth Action Board to gather a wider range of perspectives.
- The Supporting Hopeful Youth, Youth Action Board has recently taken time to revisit bylaws and core values to ensure all members have the ability to guide the board structure.

2020 Homeless Youth Census

The 2020 Homeless Youth Count has concluded (September 18-26, 2020). D’Vontay Hope (TCP Fellow) utilized social media to spread the word to youth in the District.

Data collection is currently over a third less than previous years. TCP is interested in what providers are seeing on the ground. This information will assist in closing data collection gaps. Providers such as Casa Ruby are leveraging in house technology to assist youth in HYC survey completion. Providers indicated that they have been successful in engaging youth in HYC. However, because youth are interacting with the same program due to COVID increasing data collection is difficult. Voter registration and other community events are attracting large crowds of youth, conducting survey outreach in those spaces is likely to be beneficial. Logistics with partner agencies and organizations must be coordinated to support this effort. DCPS has highlighted that while all Homeless Student Liaisons have been trained on HYC, it has been difficult to connect with unstably housed youth during the pandemic due to incorrect contact information on file for those students.

Run Hope Work Overview

Run Hope Work was established in 2014. The program is a 90-day intensive workforce development program located at Covenant House. Run Home Work uses a “three-pronged approach”:

- Mental Wellness: Daily Group meditation and reflection exercises
- Physical Health: Daily run
- Workforce Development
 - Professional development
 - Trade Certification

RHW now offers tele-therapy for program participants. Additional trade certifications are being added to the program curriculum. Due to COVID-19 RHW has implemented hybrid programming to adhere to CDC guidelines. Participants do not have to be literally homeless, many youth engaging in services are in transitional housing; juvenile justice involved youth are also eligible for RHW. Community leaders are

welcome to join group meditations. RHW is currently taking referrals – please contact Dawan Alford (e-mail below).

- Run Hope Work Website: <https://runhopework.org/>
- Youth Project Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHu6uQWvE9g>
- Contact Information: Dawan Alford - dalford@runhopework.org

Youth System Transitional Housing Overview

- Intent: Review Program Models and Data to identify strengths and continue system improvements.
- Focus: Transitional Housing

DC Doors Steps to Stability – Ashlee Robinson

DC Doors is an Independent 501c3 agency serving homeless families and single individuals. Steps to Stability is an 18 month program that can be extended up to 6 months based on the client's needs. (Located in Mahaning Heights Neighborhood). This program serves 18 to 24 year old youth in 5 units with 15 available beds in the program. The program has shared room and individuals (single rooms are leverages as an incentive for successful case plan progress.

- Youth are matched to the program through the CAHP system.
- Intake: TB test are required; however, if testing is a barrier DC Doors will connect youth to health services.
 - Program Rules and Expectations are shared including program standards
 - Curfews – during the first 90 days the curfew is 8 PM; after 90 days the curfew extends to 11 PM on weekdays and 2AM on weekends
- Visitation Policy – visitation has been suspended during COVID-19; however, they are permitted during regular programing.
- Staffing (10 staff to 15 youth, 24 hour; no security)
- Resources provided (food, laundry, transportation, WiFi, etc.)
- Approach: DC Doors uses cultural competency sensitive methods of engagement.
- Case Management: Case plans are documented in HMIS and are tailored to the needs of clients.
- Shared Housing: Roommate agreements are made to uphold responsibilities and have proved to be successful in maintaining healthy and positive peer relationships.
- Life Skills Offered: financial literacy, healthy relationships, self-care, and home skills.
 - Life skills are adaptable for youth needs e.g. political engagement
- Peer-support is utilized in the form of program alumni engaging program participants.
- Program Needs:
 - Additional mental health supports will assist in supporting the emotional growth of youth.
- See the attached PowerPoint presentation for additional information about data and performance outcomes.

Covenant House Rights of Passage – Lauren Puryear

Covenant House recently reached 25 years of service in Washington, DC. Rights of Passage (ROP) is a transitional housing program designed to support youth between the ages of 18 and 24 in achieving

stability through housing, employment, education, and mental health support. (Located in Ward 7). Rights of Passage has three programs: ROP1, ROP2, & ROP3.

- ROP living arrangements are as follows:
 - 12-3 bedrooms, 2-2 bedroom apartments. Shared living space, own room.
- Youth are matched to the program through the CAHP system.
- ROP3 is a DYRS funded program – participants are matched through direct referral (not from CAHP) - 8 beds
- Intake:
 - TB test are required
 - Program Rules and Expectations are shared including program standards
 - Curfews: 12am on Weekdays and 2am on Weekends
 - Visitation Policy-suspended due to COVID-19
 - Education/Employment/Vocation engagement required
 - 50% of escrow savings
 - Weekly CM meetings
- Technology incentives have recently been established to reward participants for working towards their goals.
- Lyft/Metro cards are given to youth based on need to ensure participants can travel to school and work.
- Staffing-24 hours staff & security, 1:10 CM ratio, 1 MHSS
 - Security has been established during the pandemic with the intent to decrease terminations – mainly by diffusing situations outside of building. Data showed that many altercations took place with community members (non-participant) who came to CH looking for a youth.
- Resources Provided: WiFi, laundry in each unit, we provide all needs upon entry and encourage the youth to budget to provide for themselves.
- Case Management – case plans are adapted to meet the needs of each client.
- CH has recent established a youth-led advisory committee to include youth in program planning while uplifting participant leadership.
- Program Needs: CH is interested in seeking funding for a mental health specialist and a substance abuse counselor.
- See the attached PowerPoint presentation for additional information about data and performance outcomes.

Parking Lot Issues:

- How do we support youth who are in a relationship and would like to seek housing support and services with their partner. Youth family and co-habiting access points should be brainstormed/developed in work groups. Innovation is needed.

Agency and Partner Updates

Government Agency Updates:

OSSE: Is reaching out to community providers to coordinate with homeless liaisons, especially as the holidays approach for additional support unstably-housed youth.

DHS:

- COVID-19 Provider Call: October 1st at 4pm
- Closed two RFAs/NOFAs.
 - TGNC Workforce Development RFA: <https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/publication/fy-2021-workforce-development-program-transgender-non-binary-and-gender-non-conforming>
 - LGBTQ ETH Program: RFA: <https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/publication/fy21-homeless-lgbtq-youth-extended-transitional-housing-program>

ICH:

- Winter plan is being developed and will be shared with the Youth Committee in October.

OVSJG:

- No major update. Reentry RFA deadline closed this week.

DCPS:

- No updates

CFSA:

- No updates

DYRS:

- No updates

Provider Updates:

- Reggie Black will circulate youth political engagement opportunities.
- Constituent Services Worldwide is offering free workforce development services for members of the LGBTQ community. Additionally, Constituent Services Worldwide is offering online training with stipend to begin by October 25, 2020. Upon training completion and earning certifications attached to the training, newly trained Community Health Educators/Workers (CHEs) will provide COVID-19 related training to Wards 7 and 8 residents and organizations operating in Wards 7 and 8. CHEs also will join extensive outreach and marketing efforts that encourage residents of Wards 7 and 8 to receive COVID-19 testing at neighborhood sites. These experiences plus training will increase participants' employment marketability and competitiveness. See e-mail attachment for additional information.

Next Meeting: Will be held October 22nd at 10:00 AM ET.